

Town Council Meeting: 12 February 2007



Town of Garrett Park
PO Box 84
4600 Waverly Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896

Regular Meeting of Town Council
Garrett Park Town Hall
10814 Kenilworth Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896

MINUTES

Call to Order: Mayor Shawaker called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. Present were Councilmembers Altar, Benjamin, Irons, Soltan, and Wegner. Also present was Town Administrator Pratt, Margaret Soltan of the *Bugle*, and a number of Town residents.

Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved as posted without objection.

Presentations by Citizens: Resident Dick Pratt expressed concern about the lack of results coming out of the January 29th hearing on the report of the Penn Place Parking Committee. Councilmember Soltan noted that the issue of Rokeby Avenue in front of Penn Place is on the Town's infrastructure agenda via the View Engineering report. Councilmember Benjamin stated that it was important to identify outside sources of funding for construction of the project, if possible, before committing large amounts of Town funds, which would displace other capital projects. Councilmember Irons commented that Penn Place parking on Rokeby Avenue should be one of the items to be considered in the infrastructure survey and needs to be part of a reasonable and realistic capital program going forward. Resident Gunnar Platais stated that the project was concerned with safety and aesthetics and the committee's Plan A was his choice.

Committee Reports:

- Councilmember Altar updated the Council on progress regarding the new Town website, noting that residents Martin Trocki and Jim Cole were interviewing responders to the Town's RFP, and that it appears the development cost will be around \$7,000 instead of \$5,000.
- Councilmember Soltan reported that the Rights of Ways Committee is still gathering comments and is hoping for an updated report for the March Council meeting.
- Councilmember Soltan reported that the Arboretum Committee would be holding a meeting in Pat Keating's office at Penn Place at 7:30 P.M. on February 22nd.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Shawaker reported on the MD Mayor's Association meeting in Annapolis, noting that a \$1.4 billion shortfall was being predicted for the FY 2008 Maryland state budget.
- The Mayor also reported that Verizon has been relocating the recently-installed optical hubs to higher positions on their poles to avoid line-of-sight problems for drivers.
- Mayor Shawaker also reported that she had received a letter from Tom Hicks of the State Highway Administration indicating that the traffic light at Kenilworth Avenue and Strathmore Avenue would be made fully functional in the Spring. (It should be noted that none of the Council had seen this document.)

Councilmember's Reports:

- Capital Program Report – Councilmember Benjamin briefed the Council on the status of the capital improvement program, noting that he and the Mayor had recently met with John Strong from View Engineering to review the interim report, copies of which had been distributed to the Council prior to the meeting. VIEW has proposed a multi-year program with a draft immediate implementation will cost approximately \$300,000 in fiscal 07 and 08.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Benjamin **MOVED**

That the minutes of the 01/08/2006 Regular Council Meeting be approved as corrected. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Soltan and was **PASSED** unanimously.

Action/Discussion:

- Appointment to the Historic Preservation Committee – Mayor Shawaker asked that the Council approve the appointment of resident Kevin Polk to serve out the remainder of Bob Reinhardt's term on the Historic Preservation Committee (May 2010), Mr. Reinhardt having recently resigned from the committee. Councilmember Benjamin **MOVED**

That the Council approve the Mayor's appointment of Kevin Pool to the Historic Preservation committee. Councilmember Irons seconded the motion which was **PASSED** unanimously.

- Introduction of Ordinance 2007-01: Amending the FY 2007 Annual Operating Budget – Mayor Shawaker asked Councilmember Benjamin to present the revisions to the FY 2007 budget. Councilmember Benjamin reviewed those amendments, and after a brief discussion, **MOVED**

That Ordinance 2007-01: Amendment of the FY 2007 Operating and Capital Budget (attached to these minutes) be introduced. Councilmember Irons seconded the motion, which **PASSED** unanimously.

- FY 2008 Budget Workshop – Mayor Shawaker announced that the Town Council would hold its annual budget workshop to consider the FY 2008 budget in the Town Office on Monday, February 19th, at 8:30 AM.

Town Administrator Report:

Town Administrator Pratt distributed the monthly financial report.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

[TOWN SEAL]

Edwin Pratt, Jr., Clerk-Treasurer